

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS:EVC
APPROVED BY P - PHILIP C. HABIB
EA:RBOAKLEY
D/HA:MR LOWMAN (SUBS)
EA:RCHOLBROOKE
S/S - JETHYDEN
-----075773 180256Z /65
O 180202Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196210

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SREF, SN

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES

REF: A) STATE 190398 B) SINGAPORE 3464

YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY
TO PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW: BEGIN QUOTE.

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: ON AUGUST 11, THE U.S. ATTORNEY
GENERAL MADE THE LEGAL DETERMINATION TO PAROLE INTO THE
UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES INCLUDING 7000
WHO SOUGHT FREEDOM BY FLEEING IN BOATS. PRESIDENT JIMMY
CARTER, KEY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE PRESS AND
THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE
PARTICULAR PLIGHT OF THE BOAT REFUGEES. ACCOUNTS OF
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EXTENSIVE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE BASED IN PART ON A
DECLINE IN THE AGE-OLD HUMANITARIAN TRADITION OF RESCUE
AT SEA HAVE BECOME A MATTER OF GLOBAL AS WELL AS PACIFIC
CONCERN.

THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS FULLY THAT STATES ON THE
PERIPHERY OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FACE UNIQUE PROBLEMS IN

RECEIVING AND ACCOMMODATING REFUGEES FOR WHAT HAVE APPEARED TO BE INDETERMINATE PERIODS. THE NEW UNITED STATES PROGRAM (ALONG WITH THOSE BEING CONTINUED CONCURRENTLY BY FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, DENMARK, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA) REFLECTS OUR AWARENESS OF THESE SPECIAL CONCERNS AND SHOULD ENABLE COUNTRIES WHICH BECOME AN AREA OF FIRST ASYLUM BY CIRCUMSTANCE TO OFFER HOSPITALITY WITHOUT NECESSARILY ACCEPTING A PERMANENT AND TOTAL OBLIGATION.

I THUS HOPE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY WILL PERMIT YOUR GOVERNMENT TO JOIN WITH US IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO EASE THE CONDITIONS OF HUMAN DISTRESS AND MISERY REPRESENTED BY THE REFUGEES. SINCERELY,
CYRUS VANCE. END QUOTE.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PAROLE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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